United Nations A/60/166

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 99 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

During the period under review, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa held only one ministerial meeting. At the conclusion of its meeting, the Committee adopted two declarations: one on the mercenary activity in Central Africa and the other on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region. By the declaration on mercenaries, the Committee noted that the mercenary activity which had taken root in the subregion a long time ago had become a serious obstacle to peace, stability and development in the subregion. By the Declaration of the International Conference, the Committee, inter alia, welcomed the progress made at the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, in particular the successful convening of the first summit of Heads of State in Dar es Salaam in November 2004, and encouraged its member States to consider the existing legal instruments in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Department for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa continued to extend assistance to the Member States of the Committee.

* A/60/150.

** The document was submitted late to conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

05-44455 (E) 150805

Contents

		Para.
I.	Introduction	
II.	Action by the United Nations	
III.	Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee	
IV.	Programme of activities for the period 2005-2006	
V.	Administrative and financial matters	
VI.	Conclusions and observations	

graphs Page
1–3 3
4–11 3
12–16 5
17 6
18–19 6
20–21 7

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/96 of 3 December 2004, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in the subregion. It also reaffirmed its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé in July 1992 (see A/47/511).

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), created in 1999 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the early warning mechanism in Central Africa. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry out their efforts and further requested him to submit to it at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. It covers the activities undertaken by the United Nations and the Committee since the submission of the previous report on the subject (A/59/182).

II. Action by the United Nations

4. During the period under review, in response to a request from the Government of Burundi for assistance in addressing the problem of illegally held small arms and light weapons in the hands of the civilian population, the Department for Disarmament Affairs dispatched a fact-finding mission to Burundi. The Mission, which was jointly conducted with the Geneva-based UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, took place from 19 to 25 February 2005.

5. Following extensive consultations with several Government officials, members of the donor community, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and other representatives of the United Nations system in Burundi, as well as representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations, the Mission concluded that the proliferation of illicit weapons in the country was a serious and widespread problem caused by a combination of political, socio-economic and security factors, and that it was a problem that equally affected the neighbouring States of Burundi. The Mission was also informed by all concerned that, due to the fragile security situation in the country and, in particular, the inability of the Transitional Government to provide security for all its citizens, it would be difficult to undertake any weapons-collection programmes on the eve of the presidential elections.

6. On 4 May 2005, President Ndayizeye signed into law a civilian disarmament decree strengthening the country's efforts to reduce the number of weapons retained in private homes across the country. The decree was complemented by the signing of separate legislation prohibiting off-duty police and military personnel from

wearing uniforms or bearing arms during the electoral period (see S/2005/328). Since the signing of the decree, the UNDP country office in Burundi has appointed a small arms expert to assist with the country's disarmament initiatives, provide advice and coordinate international community assistance in this regard.

7. In other developments in the region, from 11 to 20 May 2005, the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Coordinator of the Centre's project on small arms transparency and control regime in Africa (SATCRA) undertook a mission to Cameroon (1 to 15 May) and to Gabon (15 to 20 May). The objective of the mission was to launch the national inventory of local capacities for the production of small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

8. In addition to the activities undertaken by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, which was created at the behest of the Committee, continued to provide technical assistance to member States of the Committee and the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States. In keeping with the established spirit of collaboration with the ECCAS secretariat, the Centre has continued to provide support in the design of a legal framework for information management concerning the freedom of movement of citizens of the subregion. Furthermore, in commemoration of the fifty-sixth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2004, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa organized, in collaboration with the office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Central Africa, several activities, which took place from 3 to 22 December 2004. The activities included, among others, extracurricular arts activities, such as imaginative drawings full of colour and sensitivity on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the projection of a film video entitled "Human rights progress and challenge" and an OHCHR DVD entitled "The pain of others, at work for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights"; training in Internet use for human rights work; the launching of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Prize; exhibitions on human rights education; and a training seminar on human rights and the culture of peace.

9. From 27 to 29 June 2005, the Subregional Centre, in collaboration with UNAIDS and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, conducted a capacity-building workshop for civil society representatives of all ECCAS member States on the subject "The role of civil society in the fight against discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS." The seminar concluded with the adoption of a declaration and a code of conduct, as well as the establishment of a network of HIV/AIDS activists in the subregion.

10. The Subregional Centre also provided financial assistance to two institutions of higher learning in the field of human rights. The Association pour la promotion des droits de l'homme en Afrique Centrale based in Yaoundé, and the Faculté de Droit de l'Université Marien Ngouabi, based in Brazzaville were selected as beneficiaries of a US$ 3,000 allowance aimed at supporting their respective programmes in human rights education. Furthermore, within the framework of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Assisting Communities Together, the Subregional Centre, on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, awarded allowances of US$ 5,000 to three Cameroonian NGOs working in the field of human rights and peace advocacy. They

are the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, which operates in the north-west province of Cameroon, the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, based in Bamenda, Cameroon, and the Union Nationale des Associations et Institutions pour Personnes Handicapées du Cameroun, based in Yaoundé.

11. After more than 10 years of preparations by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region was finally held in Dar es Salaam, on 19 and 20 November 2004. The Conference, which included six member States of the Committee, culminated in the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, by which participating States committed themselves, inter alia, to building a Great Lakes region that is open to other regions of the continent by developing cooperation in priority areas such as peace and security; democracy and good governance; economic development and regional integration; and humanitarian and social issues.

III. Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee

12. The Committee held its 22nd ministerial meeting from 14 to 18 March 2005 in Brazzaville (see A/59/769-S/2005/212). Its agenda included, among other things, (a) recent geopolitical and security developments in selected member States of the Committee including, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and a brief exchange of experiences in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in various member States of the Committee; (b) the threat of the phenomenon of mercenaries in the Central African region; (c) the role of the Committee and the Economic Community of Central African States in promoting the implementation, in the Central African region, of the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region; and (d) the contribution of Central African States to the work of the United Nations Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

13. All 11 member States of the Committee participated in this meeting, namely, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

14. Participants welcomed the holding, on 28 February in Burundi, of a peaceful referendum on that country's new constitution, as well as the holding, on 13 March, of peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in the Central African Republic. They expressed grave concern about the massive inflow of refugees into Chad as a result of the Darfur conflict in the Sudan. Participants welcomed the improved relationship between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, in particular the signing on 24 September 2004 by the two countries of the joint verification mechanism aimed at addressing the transborder problems that have been the source of conflict between them, including the former armed forces of Rwanda, the Interahamwe, who are still present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They deplored the killings that are still going on in the eastern Democratic Republic

of the Congo and called upon all Congolese entities to take the necessary steps to overcome the mistrust that hitherto has been one of the major obstacles to a truly unified country.

15. At the conclusion of its 22nd ministerial meeting, the Committee adopted a declaration on the International Conference on Peace and Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, aimed at promoting the implementation, in the Central African region, of the Dar es Salaam Declaration in the Great Lakes region. In that connection, the Committee called upon ECCAS member States to take into account existing ECCAS judicial instruments and to broaden their application, in particular the non-aggression pacts and mutual assistance pacts. The Committee also adopted a declaration on mercenary activity in the Central African region, by which it noted that the mercenary activity that had taken root in the subregion a long time ago had become a serious obstacle to peace, stability and development in the subregion. In that connection, the Committee invited member States to increase exchange of information and to adopt appropriate legislation to combat mercenary activity. The Committee also requested member States to take concrete measures through effective cooperation among all States of the subregion, which, once adopted, would combat mercenary activity in Central Africa (see A/59/769-S/2005/212).

16. Committee efforts to organize the training workshop to enable Central African civil society and NGOs to play a meaningful role in the implementation, in the Central African region, of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Eradicate and Combat the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, an item on its agenda since May 2003, did not materialize due to financial constraints. As at May 2005, the Committee had received a contribution of US$ 37,000 from the Government of the Czech Republic in support of the workshop.

IV. Programme of activities for the period 2005-2006

17. The Committee programme of activities for the period 2005-2006 will be elaborated at its 23rd ministerial meeting to be held from 29 August to 2 September 2005 in Brazzaville.

V. Administrative and financial matters

18. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to provide funding from the regular budget for two ministerial meetings, while the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to finance the activities of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. As indicated above, the Government of the Czech Republic contributed US$ 37,000 towards the organization of the capacity-training workshop for Central African civil society organizations and NGOs. The Committee hopes that other Governments will follow the example of the Government of the Czech Republic in funding similar events.

19. The Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to Member States, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute

to the Trust Fund of the Committee in order to enable the Committee to fully implement its programme of work.

VI. Conclusions and observations

20. Although the Committee was able to organize one meeting only, the adoption of the two declarations, mentioned above, once again demonstrated the valuable role the Committee could play in the Central African region. Indeed, the Committee remains the only forum that allows States members of ECCAS to meet on a regular basis to examine and exchange information on recent developments in the areas of peace, security and development in their respective countries and the region as a whole. Through the adoption of the Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the Members of the Committee recognize the link between peace in the Great Lakes region and their own subregion.

21. Moreover, by highlighting the activities of mercenaries in the Central African region, the Committee endeavours to draw the attention of its States members and the international community to the seriousness of the problem and therefore to the need for concerted subregional and international action to effectively address the problem. While the Committee efforts are commendable, in order for the Central African subregion to attain sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion, concrete actions are imperative. In that connection, it is critical that COPAX and its structures, in particular its early warning mechanism, become operational. It is also vital that the capacity of the ECCAS secretariat be strengthened so as to enable it to spearhead the implementation of the various declarations, decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

United Nations A/60/167

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 43 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report by the World Tourism Organization in response to Assembly resolution 56/212 of 21 December 2001 and decision 58/573 of 13 September 2004.

* A/60/150.

05-44500 (E) 170805

Report by the World Tourism Organization on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Summary

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism was adopted on 1 October 1999 at the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The Code of Ethics is a set of basic principles whose purpose is to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the different stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development. The Code of Ethics is not a legally binding instrument and therefore its acceptance is voluntary.

In 2001, the WTO General Assembly adopted Part I of its Protocol of Implementation, which created The World Committee on Tourism Ethics — a body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Eleven members were appointed to the Committee and endorsed by the WTO Executive Council in June 2003. The members of the Committee are independent, impartial personalities from the public and private tourism sector who have been appointed to represent their Governments, as well as other tourism stakeholders such as employers, employees, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. The World Committee was charged with three primary tasks: promotion and dissemination of the Code of Ethics, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the Code, and conciliation for the settlement of differences concerning the application or interpretation of the code. Part II of the Protocol of Implementation, creating consultation and conciliation procedures, was approved by the Committee in October 2004. The procedures envisage a two-phase dispute-settlement process. In the first, the WTO Secretary-General carries out a fact-finding mission among the parties in the dispute, the result of which is submitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee then issues recommendations for the settlement of the dispute.

In 2004, the Committee decided to carry out a survey of WTO members to assess the degree of implementation of the Code. The results would lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Committee's future strategy for promoting the implementation of the Code. The results indicate that nearly three quarters of the respondents had already incorporated the principles of the Code into their laws, regulations or tourism development plans. In 1999, Member States had been asked to disseminate the Code and translate it into national and local languages. The survey found that the Code had been translated into 33 additional languages and generally disseminated among various tourism stakeholders. The Code has also been applied in the area of promotion of responsible travel advisories. The Committee has endorsed the idea of regional tourism awards as a way of encouraging the implementation of the Code.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	4
II.	The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism	3–9	4
III.	The World Committee on Tourism Ethics	10–15	5
IV.	Consultation and conciliation procedures	16–22	6
V.	Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism	23–39	7
	A. Country survey on the implementation of the Code	23–31	7
	B. Application of the Code to travel advisories	32–34	8
	C. Implementation parameters for the Code	35–37	9
	D. Complementary ways of implementing the Code	38–39	9
VI.	Conclusions	40–43	9
Annex			
	2004-2005 Survey on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism: replies to questionnaire QUEST/GCET/2004 (as of 30/06/05)		11

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/212 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations noted with interest the adoption of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and requested the Secretary-General to follow up on the developments related to the implementation of that resolution based on the reports of WTO and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. On 13 September 2004, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the report to its sixtieth session.

2. The present report by the World Tourism Organization is submitted to the General Assembly in response to the above-mentioned request.

II. The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

3. The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism was adopted on 1 October 1999 at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, by resolution 406(XIII).

4. The Code of Ethics constitutes a comprehensive set of basic principles whose purpose is to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the different stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable and responsible development, including poverty alleviation, as well as understanding among nations.

5. The structure of the Code comprises a Preamble, the Principles (9 articles) and a mechanism for their implementation (article 10).

6. The Code of Ethics is not a legally binding instrument and therefore its acceptance is voluntary. The voluntary nature of this instrument is a feature on which the WTO places particular emphasis. The application of the Code may, nevertheless, be advanced by the incorporation of its contents and provisions into appropriate legislation, regulations and professional codes that the General Assemblies of both WTO and the United Nations (the latter in resolution 56/212) have invited Governments and other stakeholders in the tourism sector to consider. Such provisions, based on the Code and adopted at national or industry levels, would be binding according to the terms of reference of each adopting constituency. Yet they would not change the voluntary nature of the Code itself, which will remain a reference and guiding document.

7. Furthermore, it should be noted that the initial text of the Code of Ethics, submitted in 1999 to the WTO General Assembly for adoption, was originally complemented by a draft protocol of implementation which related to two essential elements of the implementation process covered by article 10 of the Code, viz. the creation of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics as a flexible follow-up and evaluation mechanism, and the development of conciliation procedures based on a voluntary acceptance. While fully subscribing to these two purposes, the General Assembly decided to adopt only the main body of the Code of Ethics and to postpone its decision on the draft protocol of implementation so as to allow member States and organizations to submit additional remarks and propose amendments to it.

8. A revised draft protocol of implementation was submitted to the WTO General Assembly at its fourteenth session in September 2001. The General Assembly, by resolution 438(XIV), adopted Part I of the Protocol of Implementation, entitled "World Committee on Tourism Ethics — body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism". This part of the Protocol lays down the conditions governing the appointment and terms of reference of the Committee.

9. By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to refer Part II of the Protocol of Implementation related to the conciliation mechanism for the settlement of disputes to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for review. The text of this instrument, as approved by the Committee in 2004, will be submitted to the WTO General Assembly at the end of 2005.

III. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics

10. With the adoption in 2001 of Part I of the Protocol of Implementation, entitled "World Committee on Tourism Ethics — body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism", the WTO General Assembly also decided to start the process of appointing the members of the Committee.

11. The appointment of the 11 members and 11 alternates of the Committee took place throughout 2002 and the beginning of 2003 within the framework of the six WTO regional commissions and the Committee of the Affiliate Members. The process concluded in June 2003 with the endorsement of the composition of the new Committee by the WTO Executive Council (decision CE/DEC/12(LXX)).

12. The members of the Committee are independent and impartial personalities from the public and private tourism sector who have been appointed to represent Governments, as well as other categories of tourism stakeholders from the operational sector, such as employers, employees, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations.

13. At the Committee's first session held in February 2004 and following a proposal by the WTO Secretary-General that had been endorsed by the General Assembly, Mr. Diego Cordovez, a former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, was elected Chairman of the Committee.

14. The tasks assigned by the WTO General Assembly to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics are threefold:

(a) Promotion and dissemination of the Global Code of Ethics;

(b) Evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Ethics; and

(c) Conciliation for the settlement of differences concerning the application or interpretation of the Code.

15. Since its establishment, the Committee has held three sessions: in Rome in February 2004, in Madrid in October 2004, and in Tunis in May 2005. The Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure, established its programme of work, approved consultation and conciliation procedures as well as guidelines for the

consideration of disputes, and adopted recommendations for the settlement of the first cases of dispute.

IV. Consultation and conciliation procedures

16. As requested by the General Assembly, the Committee considered Part II of the draft protocol of implementation for the settlement of disputes at its first session in February 2004. In October of the same year, after examining a revised draft proposed by its Chairman, the Committee approved unanimously the Procedures for Consultation and Conciliation for the Settlement of Disputes concerning the Application of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

17. This instrument is a flexible and voluntary consultation and conciliation — not arbitration — mechanism in which two or more countries (or even one country and a non-governmental organization or industry business) can refer a dispute to the Committee with a view to reaching a solution to their differences. Particular emphasis should be placed on the voluntary nature of the submission of cases of dispute to the Committee for conciliation, as no party can be obliged to submit a matter against its will.

18. The Procedures envisage two phases in the dispute-settlement process. In the first instance, the WTO Secretary-General and the technical services of the organization carry out a fact-finding function among parties in a dispute, the result of which is then submitted to the Committee for its consideration. In the second phase, the Committee considers all the issues involved, for which purpose it may establish a panel of members, and issues recommendations for the settlement of the dispute. Individual stakeholders may also seek the Committee's advice on specific aspects of the implementation of the Code.

19. The Procedures for Consultation and Conciliation for the Settlement of Disputes were approved unanimously by the WTO Executive Council in December 2004, by decision CE/DEC/14(LXXIV). By the same decision the Executive Council encouraged the Committee to start with the implementation of the new mechanism.

20. In May 2005, after receiving the first cases of dispute submitted to it for consultation, and given the nature of some of the complaints, the Committee considered it necessary to complement the consultation and conciliation mechanism with a set of guidelines concerning the admissibility of individual applications in cases of dispute or cases of complaint. Under the terms of the guidelines, which the Committee unanimously adopted, applications that are submitted unilaterally will only be considered by the Committee if submitted by parties not directly involved in the dispute in question.

21. However, in cases in which a non-application of ethical principles in the field of tourism is observed, the above-mentioned guidelines do not preclude the Committee from issuing, on its own initiative, clarifications about the correct implementation of the Code of Ethics or to give advisory opinions for future guidance.

22. The Procedures for Consultation and Conciliation for the Settlement of disputes will be submitted, for final adoption, to the WTO General Assembly at its sixteenth session, which will be held in Dakar, Senegal, from 25 November to 2 December 2005.

V. Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

A. Country survey on the implementation of the Code

23. At its first meeting, in February 2004, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics decided to carry out an extensive survey among WTO members with a view to assessing the actual degree of implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism worldwide and establishing an inventory of the measures taken so far to promote and disseminate this instrument.

24. The outcome of this 12-month survey, carried out between 2004 and 2005 among WTO members from both the public and the private tourism sector, was designed to lay down the groundwork for the establishment of the Committee's future strategy for promoting the implementation of the Code of Ethics.

25. With a response rate of 61 per cent, the findings are based on replies received from 92 full and associate members of the organization, including two permanent observers. The survey results indicate that nearly three quarters of respondents had already incorporated the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism into their legislative texts, or had used them as a basis when establishing national laws, regulations or tourism development plans. Several member States provided the exact title and year of the law, regulation or master plan concerned, while others reported the existence or the preparation of national or sectoral codes of ethics.

26. With the adoption of the Code of Ethics in 1999, the WTO General Assembly also urged the member States to publish the Code and make it known as widely as possible. In order for each country to reach the largest possible number of local tourism stakeholders, it was recommended that national tourism administrations or other related bodies arrange for the Code to be translated, where applicable, into their national or local languages.

27. According to the findings of the survey, the Code has been translated in 33 countries whose national languages were other than Arabic, English, French, Russian or Spanish, the five official languages of the organization. As many as 24 of these translations were made available to the secretariat of the Committee, where they were registered and then placed on the "Ethics in tourism" website (http://www.world-tourism.org/code_ethics/eng.html), which is accessible to the public in general.

28. Moreover, with regard to the dissemination of the Code of Ethics to the various "stakeholders in tourism development", national tourism administrations in member countries declared that they had predominantly distributed the Code to tourism industry associations (76 per cent of respondents). Dissemination had also been carried out among tourism education institutes (60 per cent); regional or local tourism authorities (59 per cent); tourism promotion boards (57 per cent); tourism workers' unions, non-governmental organizations and researchers/academics (51 per cent each); the media (46 per cent); tourists and visitors (32 per cent); and, lastly,

financing institutions (22 per cent). In exceptional cases, the Code of Ethics was also distributed to the other government departments, or local schools.

29. In addition to the dissemination and the translation of the Code of Ethics, the types of actions most frequently reported by members were, in decreasing order of occurrence, the organization of meetings, workshops and round tables; the production of leaflets containing guidelines and best practices; the holding of press conferences; and the running of capacity-building events at universities, or training for tourism police. In a small number of countries, the Code of Ethics has been posted in hotel lobbies, or promoted by means of road shows. As a complementary means of advancing the Code, some respondents also cited the launch of national campaigns on specific aspects covered by the Code, such as the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism (a phenomenon commonly known as "child sex tourism").

30. Finally, the findings of the survey show that, in line with a WTO recommendation, 50 member States had designated an official from within their national tourism administrations to serve as focal point for the follow-up of the implementation of the Code of Ethics in their respective countries. Three additional countries have assigned a whole department or division of their tourism administration to carry out this function. In three other countries, national committees for the implementation of the Code have been established with representatives from government and the industry.

31. Based on the information collected by means of this survey, the Committee will establish a short- and medium-term strategy to improve the promotion of the Code of Ethics worldwide and strengthen the implementation of its provisions by the tourism sector.

B. Application of the Code to travel advisories

32. The issue of travel advisories is addressed by the Code of Ethics in a balanced manner in paragraph 5 of article 6, "Obligations of stakeholders in tourism development". This subject has increasingly gained importance for the tourism industry, especially after 2001, when the industry started experiencing serious difficulties as a consequence of the various terrorist attacks, health threats and other problems it had to face.

33. It is the duty of Governments to protect their citizens and to inform them of the dangers they may encounter during their travel abroad. However, tourist destinations and host communities are not always treated in a fair manner by travel advisories, thus creating real obstacles to their tourism development. The contents of the warnings that are issued are often too vague or not proportionate to the gravity of the situations encountered; and, sometimes, they even fail to be updated or cancelled when the situation improves or comes back to normality.

34. The WTO Executive Council, therefore, included discussion on travel advisories within the debate on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for tourism and the principles related to responsible tourism which took place at its past two sessions, held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, and Nessebar, Bulgaria, respectively in December 2004 and June 2005. In Nessebar, the Executive Council decided to constitute a working group to deal in greater depth with the

recommendations on travel advisories and to report thereon to the WTO General Assembly at its sixteenth session (December 2005).

C. Implementation parameters for the Code

35. At its first session, in Rome in February 2004, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics entrusted the WTO secretariat with the preparation of implementation parameters to assist in the interpretation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics and in the evaluation of the degree of implementation of the latter. The parameters would also serve as a reference tool for WTO members for their practical implementation of the Code.

36. A first set of implementation parameters related to articles of the Code, having a special focus on such areas as trade, safety and security and quality in tourism, have already been examined by the Committee in 2004. The final part of the study on the parameters is still under revision by the technical services of the WTO secretariat, and will be ready for consideration of the Committee, at its next meeting in 2006.

37. Once approved by the Committee, the implementation parameters for the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism will be distributed to the WTO membership.

D. Complementary ways of implementing the Code

38. Based on a proposal submitted to it by the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, the Committee considered the establishment of a tourism award, such as the Indonesian Tri Hita Karana ("three causes of happiness") Tourism Award, as a concrete and valuable example of promoting the understanding and the implementation of the Code.

39. The Committee therefore decided to endorse the Tri Hita Karana Tourism Award as a complementary way of encouraging the implementation of the Code of Ethics and appealed to other countries and regions to develop similar awards.

VI. Conclusions

40. **The Secretary-General of the WTO expresses his satisfaction to the members of the organization for their acceptance of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and for the measures they have taken so far to implement the provisions it contains. Five years after its adoption, the Code has proved to be a valuable tool for guiding tourism stakeholders in the development of environmentally and socially sound and sustainable tourism.**

41. **After an arduous process of constitution, it now appears that the World Committee on Tourism Ethics has adopted the right approach in dealing with ethical principles and questions related to tourism and is proceeding, step by step, in an overall satisfactory and competent manner. The efforts deployed by the Committee for the promotion and dissemination of the Code are now beginning to show their first results. The Consultation and Conciliation**

Procedures for the Settlement of Disputes, recently approved by the Committee, seem generally acceptable to WTO members.

42. **The contribution that the Committee can make in the future to the international tourism community is of great importance for all those stakeholders involved in promoting and developing an equitable and responsible world tourism. A few institutional and administrative adjustments are still necessary so as to enable the Committee to carry out more effectively the important tasks it has been entrusted with.**

43. **The Secretary-General of the WTO will undertake to report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, within a period of five years, on developments related to the progress achieved in the implementation of the Code of Ethics by both the public and private tourism sector.**

Annex

2004-2005 Survey on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Replies to questionnaire QUEST/GCET/2004 (as of 30/06/2005)

WTO member States, associate members and permanent observers

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Argentina
4. Armenia
5. Austria
6. Azerbaijan
7. Bangladesh
8. Benin
9. Bhutan
10. Bolivia
11. Brazil
12. Burundi
13. Cambodia
14. Cameroon
15. Canada
16. Central African Republic
17. Chile
18. Colombia
19. Congo
20. Costa Rica
21. Côte d'Ivoire
22. Cyprus
23. Czech Republic
24. Dominican Republic
25. Ecuador
26. Egypt
27. El Salvador
28. Eritrea
29. Fiji
30. Flemish Community of Belgium
31. France
32. Gabon
33. Germany
34. Greece
35. Guatemala
36. Guinea
37. Holy See
38. Honduras
39. Hong Kong, China
40. Hungary
41. Indonesia
42. Iran, Islamic Republic of
43. Israel
44. Italy
45. Jamaica
46. Japan
47. Jordan
48. Kenya
49. Kyrgyzstan
50. Lesotho
51. Madagascar
52. Madeira, Portugal
53. Malawi
54. Malaysia
55. Mali
56. Malta
57. Mauritius
58. Mexico
59. Monaco
60. Morocco
61. Netherlands
62. Niger
63. Nigeria
64. Oman
65. Pakistan
66. Panama
67. Paraguay
68. Peru
69. Philippines
70. Poland
71. Portugal
72. Puerto Rico
73. Republic of Korea
74. Republic of Moldova
75. Romania
76. Saudi Arabia
77. Senegal
78. Serbia and Montenegro
79. Seychelles
80. Slovakia
81. Slovenia
82. South Africa
83. Spain
84. Syrian Arab Republic

85. Thailand
86. Togo
87. Turkey
88. Uganda
89. Ukraine
90. United Republic of Tanzania
91. Venezuela
92. Viet Nam